

***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

Mr. Don L. Klima, Director  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Office of Planning and Review  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 809  
Washington DC 20004

June 22, 2006

**Re: STB Docket No. AB – 6 (Sub-No. 433X), BNSF Railway Co. - in Clay  
and Norman Counties, MN**

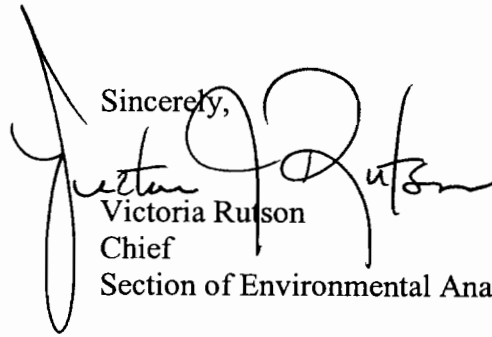
Dear Mr. Klima:

On February 16, 2006, BNSF Railway Co. (BNSF) filed a notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) seeking approval authority to abandon and discontinue service over a 5.40-mile railroad line in Clay and Norman Counties, Minnesota. The Board's approval of the abandonment is considered an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) (NHPA) and is thus covered under its provisions.

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Board responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including the NHPA. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, I am writing to notify you that the proposed abandonment may adversely affect historic properties. Accordingly, SEA has begun the consultation process and will be working with Mr. Dennis Gimmestad at the Minnesota Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO); the railroad; and other concerned or affected parties as needed. We seek your participation in the Section 106 process at this time.

The following documents are enclosed for your review: 1) BNSF's notice of exemption that describes the proposed action and contains information about the line; 2) the Environmental and Historic Reports submitted by the railroad, including a November 30, 2005 letter from the SHPO; 3) the March 13, 2006 Environmental Assessment prepared by SEA; 4) a March 23, 2006 letter from the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; and 5) April 26, 2006 and June 1, 2006 letters from the SHPO.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this proceeding, please do not hesitate to call me or Christa Dean at (202) 565-1606.

Sincerely,  
  
Victoria Rutson  
Chief  
Section of Environmental Analysis

**Attachments**

cc: Dennis Gimmestad, SHPO  
Sidney Strickland, BNSF